likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with them every year. Thirty-three projects of Bihar with Central component of Rs. 718.91 lakhs have been sanctioned during the last three years.

(b) Incomplete/deficient projects which are not sanctioned in any particular year are considered again when these are reprioritized in the subsequent financial year.

Tourist Centres for NE-Region

2402. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the different tourism projects for the North-Eastern Region, State-wise;

(b) the number of those which have been completed, State-wise; and

(c) what is Government's perspective plan for opening different tourist centres in the North-Eastern States for tourism as a resources of this region ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) The Department of Tourism, Government of India in consultation with the State Governments of North-Eastern Region sanctioned 110 projects amounting to Rs. 24.52 crores and released Rs. 7.80 crores during 2000-2001.

(b) State Governments are advised to complete the projects within the stipulated period of 30 months.

(c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India from time to time takes up the issue of opening of different tourist centres in the North-Eastern States with the Ministry of Home Affairs for promotion of Tourism.

Demand of Tourism Industry

2403. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA :.Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister is about to unveil major sops for the beleaguered tourism industry ?

(b) whether the long standing demand of the industry to rationalise taxes

and accord infrastructure status to the tourism industry are some of the outstanding demands of the industry which are necessary to make it viable; and

(c) if so, what is Government's decision in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) The Prime Minister in his speech on Independence Day has mentioned the proposed Tourism Policy which has given very positive signals to tourism industry.

(b) Department of Tourism has been taking up the various demands of the Industry including rationalisation of taxes with the appropriate authorities for action.

(c) The discussions with Central authorities and State Governments are continuing in this regard.

Provision of toilets and walkways in monuments

2404. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has decided to make certain historical sites 'disabled friendly';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to make toilets and walkways in all the monuments disabled friendly in a phased manner ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India has taken a policy decision in this regard. Provisions for ramps, appropriate toilets and braille sign boards will be set up in a phased manner in monuments/sites wherever feasible.

Misuse of government money

†2405. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount given under various heads by Government is being misused on a large scale and an incident related to use of this amount by the office bearers of the organisations for personal interests has come to light ;

(b) if so, the organisation-wise/money-wise/year-wise details thereof ;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.